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DEF DOC # 660

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

(Jan. Doc. No. 569)

Army Interior Regulations(August 11th, 1943 (Showa 18)
Military Order No. 16)

General Principles

7. To serve as a soldier means to carry out one's duties as the Emperor's right hand. Duties are naturally accompanied by responsibilities. Therefore, every officer in view of the responsibility he bears, shall exert his utmost efforts to execute his duties positively and boldly. It goes without saying that all officers concerned in any undertaking should continually keep in close contact with each other; however, relying on others or looking to superiors for instructions in every little matter, thus hesitating in the execution of an order or trying to evade one's own responsibility, is impermissible.

At the same time superior officers should pay much attention to the guidance of their subordinates, and always looking through and into changes in a situation, must express their intentions distinctly to them so that they will be realized thoroughly; must supervise them pertinently and respect their responsibilities strictly so that they will be fully realized.

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play to their abilities.

Chapter 1. General Rules.

Article 1. These Regulations shall define matters regarding the responsibilities of a regimental commander and his inferiors as well as interior regulations. However in applying them to combat units the Regulations shall be enforced only insofar as they do not obstruct their operations and defense.

Chapter 2. Obedience

Article 9. At all times and under all circumstances the obedience of a subordinate to his superior shall be strictly enforced. This also applies to cases in which the recipient of an order is not the direct subordinate of the officer issuing the order.

Article 10. In relationships between superior officers and inferior officers, between senior officers and new comers, this rule of obedience shall also be observed in so far as it does not obstruct one in carrying out his duties.

Article. 11 An order shall be respectfully obeyed and immediately executed. It is not permitted to discuss the right or wrong of order or to question the causes or reasons thereof. When a new order is inconsistent with a former one, the recipient of the order shall quietly state this fact and look for farther instructions.

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Article 12. Soldiers of each rank, especially those in senior positions shall be responsible for positively expressing to their superiors whatever they believe will bring benefits to the army with the sincere desire of assisting their superiors. However, in expressing it, orderly procedure must not be disturbed. Moreover, once a superior has decided on any course his subordinates shall endeavor to carry out his intentions devotedly, always effecting themselves even if their opinions are deferent from his.

Chapter 4. Duties of Individual Officers

Paragraph 1. Regimental Commander.

Article 19. The Regimental Commander shall be responsible for maintaining military discipline for enforcing morals and for the education and training of troops under his command.

Article 20. The Regimental Commander shall be the center of the unity of his regiment and shall especially endeavor to strengthen the unity of his regiment by training and instructing his subordinates, especially the officers, so that they may polish and brighten their soldierly spirit, and thus cooperate with each others harmoniously.

Paragraph 2. Battalion Commander

Article 26. The Battalion Commander shall be responsible for

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maintaining military discipline, for enforcing morals and for the education and training of troops under his command.

Article 27. The Battalion Commander shall endeavor especially to guide and to superintend the training and interior discipline of the companies under his command so as to have them perfectly understand the Regimental Commander's intention.

Paragraph 5. Company Commander

Article 30. The Company Commander shall be responsible for maintaining military discipline for enforcing morals and for the education and training of troops under his command

Article 31. The Company Commander shall be the central nucleus for the unity of spirits of his company; he shall especially impress on his men the Imperial instructions and rescripts given to the Armed forces; and by various means shall make his men cultivate the "Soldier's Spirit"; and shall make them understand their duties so that a strong sense of unity may be established in his company.

Chapter 5. Order, Reports, Information and Business

Paragraph 1. Orders.

Article 57. It is the main point that orders given to subordinates shall be transmitted exactly and promptly without any omission

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or error so that it may be perfectly observed. That is the essence of leadership. Only those commanders who can grasp the essence and carry it out in their ordinary daily lives can expect their orders to be perfectly observed even in urgent times of war. Therefore, each commander shall pay attention to have this point understood widely and carried out thoroughly and shall endeavor to have his troops faultlessly trained in this excellent practice.

Article 59. It is the principle that orders shall be given to subordinates or transmitted to others by way of the channel of command and leadership. The commander shall arrange means to check the transmission and execution of his order while the recipient of an order shall report to the commander with regard to the execution of the command at a convenient time such as before, after or during its execution.

Article 60. It is the responsibility of the Regimental Commander to members of the regiment under his command understand perfectly and carry out orders given by the superiors concerned and to have all necessary adaptation made promptly and without fault so that they may fit the particular situation.

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I, MIYAMA, Yōzō, who occupy the post of Chief of the Archives Section of the First Demobilization Bureau, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 4 pages and entitled "Army Interior Regulations" is an exact and authorized copy of an excerpt from an official document in the custody of Japanese Government (the Archives Section of the First Demobilization Bureau)

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of January, 1947

/s/ MIYAMA, Yozo (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place, on this same date

Witness: KORUBU, Tomoji

Translation Certificate

I, HAYASHI, Kuraichi, of the Defense, hereby certify that the attached translation of an excerpt of 4 pages, entitled "Army Interior Regulations is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

HAYASHI, Kuraichi

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Tokyo, Japan

Date February 26, 1947